

Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response-Central (AzCHER)

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LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

Dear XXXX:

We are contacting you today because your organization is a valued partner in Arizona's public health emergency preparedness and response efforts. For several years, your organization has collaborated with Arizona's hospitals and public health organizations on regional disaster drills and exercises. We also hope that you have and will continue to routinely communicate with the Hospital Emergency Preparedness coordinators at each hospital in your jurisdiction. Representatives of your organization have also held membership on regional associations and committees devoted to improving our community's emergency preparedness and response efforts.

One of the key emergency preparedness and response associations that organizations such as yours have participated in is the Maricopa County Hospital Disaster Preparedness Council (MCHDPC). While MCHDPC was originally conceived of to improve hospital awareness of emergency preparedness and response issues, membership has grown to include EMS providers, public health departments, community health centers and MMRS cities. In order to further integrate regional preparedness and response efforts; improve communications between healthcare providers, public health, and other stakeholders during an actual emergency; and align the state's preparedness efforts with the federal Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) requirements, the MCHDPC has changed its organizational structure and will be replaced by the newly formed Central Arizona Coalition for Healthcare Emergency Response (AzCHER-Central). For the first time, healthcare providers and other stakeholders throughout central Arizona – Maricopa, Gila and Pinal Counties – will form an emergency response coalition.

The organizational structure and membership of AzCHER-Central meets the new requirements of the federal HPP grant, and by merging the coalition with the existing MCHDPC, we will streamline our collaborative response efforts and eliminate duplicative activities. Attached you will find an overview of AzCHER-Central, including an organizational chart. We look forward to working with your organization in the months ahead. If you or your staff has any questions about AzCHER-Central please feel free to contact one of us.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Alisa Diggs.

Alisa Diggs, PA-c, MPH
AzCHER Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Beth Heinrich.

Beth Heinrich, RN
AzCHER Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Pete Weaver.

Pete Weaver
AzCHER Executive Committee